

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PAYING TRIBUTE TO FATHER
CHARLES E. IRVIN

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2001

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and pay tribute to Father Charles E. Irvin of Lansing, Michigan for his dedication to and retirement from the position of Editor in Chief of FAITH Magazine.

FAITH was created by Father Irvin in 1999. In the two years since, the publication has thrived under his leadership. Today, he and a staff of three distribute 830,000 copies of FAITH each year to families all across Lansing.

Father Irvin has served as Pastor of St. Mary Parish in Manchester, Michigan, St. Francis Parish in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and Holy Spirit Parish in Hamburg, Michigan. In addition, Father Irvin has worked as a corporate attorney, and once served as president of the Catholic Lawyer's Guild. After a successful launch year, Father Irvin resigned his post as editor in Chief of FAITH so he may continue his full-time work in parish ministry.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Father Charles E. Irvin, a man who has dedicated his entire life to pursuing a greater good.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF ADOLPH A. SOLIS,
CITY CLERK OF AZUSA, CA

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2001

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the achievements of Adolph A. Solis, who recently retired from his position as City Clerk of Azusa, California. He had served as City Clerk since July 1974, and was a positive role model in the Azusa community, located in California's 31st Congressional District.

Mr. Solis was born on January 17, 1931, in the San Gabriel Valley. He graduated from Citrus Union High School in 1948. He later joined the United States Navy and served as a deck hand on the USS Missouri during his first tour to Japan and Korea. After returning from his first tour in 1951, he went on to service school training in Norfolk, VA. Later, he rejoined the USS Missouri and went on a second tour to Cuba, Haiti, and several other islands in the Caribbean. Upon returning to the United States, Mr. Solis was Honorably Discharged in June 1954 at the Brooklyn Naval Station. Mr. Solis returned to Azusa in 1954.

Upon returning to Azusa, Mr. Solis married Ofelia Rico in 1955. He had proposed to her in 1951 on a two-week leave from the USS Missouri during his Far East tour. Mr. Solis

says, "I only saw her personally for five days between my proposal and our wedding." It was true love, which produced two wonderful children, William and Aida.

After his active duty, Solis worked as a file clerk for the Navy's Aerojet facility between 1954 and 1956. He then worked as an accountant until 1974.

Mr. Solis recognized the importance of education. He began his studies at Mount San Antonio College in the fall of 1955, then transferred to Citrus College in the spring of 1956, and then I went on to Pasadena City College. Mr. Solis transferred to California State University Los Angeles and graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in English in 1961.

Mr. Solis taught English as a Second Language from 1966 to 1969 for the Azusa Unified School District Adult Education Evening School. In 1969 he won a seat on the School Board, and in 1973 he was reelected.

I recognize Mr. Solis for his tireless efforts to improve the City of Azusa and for his commitment to public service. On behalf of California's 31st Congressional District, I wish him a wonderful retirement and thank him for his decades-long service to our community.

TRIBUTE TO LAKE CITY, FLORIDA'S USO SHOW PERFORMED BY MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT 57 AND AMERICAN LEGION POST 57, DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

HON. KAREN L. THURMAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2001

Mrs. THURMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to pay tribute to a wonderful group of men and women in Lake City, Florida who started their own local USO troupe and are delighting audiences near and far. The 14 members that make up the two performing groups—called the Eloquence and the Sweethearts—are all members of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 57 or the American Legion Post 57, Department of Florida. As part of their USO show, they wear spirited costumes from the 1950s and '60s and lip synch oldies but goodies once performed by entertainers with the United Service Organization (the USO) for our troops overseas.

In celebration of the USO's 60th birthday, the Lake City group performed a special Valentine's Day dance featuring memorable tunes like Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy. They raised \$300 that night, which the group generously donated to the USO. Since then, the group has continued to entertain audiences throughout the community and state at Lake City Community College, the VA Hospital, the Shriners and a nursing home in Orlando. They've even performed during Elder Day at the state Capitol in Tallahassee.

I'm so proud of them, and their tremendous spirit, enthusiasm and patriotism. Mr. Speaker,

please join me in recognizing the following individuals who are part of this unique mission to rekindle the memory of the USO and to keep its work alive: Ginger Fitzgerald; Pat Barribeau; Annette Burnham; Larry Burnham; Gaynell Burnham; Betty Jo Henderson; Wanda Procopio; Sandy Reeves; Paula Schuck; Pat Priest; Barbara Reppert; Carol Underhill; Alberto Marriott; Mark Thomas; and Marian Wyman.

I would also like to submit for the RECORD a history of the group called "A Small Flower" written by troupe member, Patricia Barribeau, who is also the Unit National Security Chairman of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 57.

A SMALL FLOWER

Like a seed that blossoms into a beautiful flower, a small project within our Auxiliary blossomed beyond belief. The spirit of the holidays and the challenge to fill the dance hall for our Holly Ball was the beginning. Someone said, "Let's sing some songs when the band takes a break." Eyes rolled and heads wagged. I thought to myself, 'How ridiculous; I've got the voice of a frog.' But six members took the challenge, and little did they know what was in store.

The first undertaking was to decide exactly what we were going to do. This was the point when we discovered that no one could really sing. So we decided instead to choose a few select songs from the past that brought back memories and lip synch. Among the original songs were Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy, Soldier Boy and God Bless The USA. We wore red, white and blue dresses, shiny fabric with long gloves and high heels. Finally, opening night arrived and we were a hit.

We started planning for the Annual Sweetheart Dance soon after the first of the year. Enthusiasm was high so we decided to entertain at the dance. By now, there was a name for the group: The Eloquence. It was time to make the program a little longer so we added two new acts: The Sweethearts, performing Sincerely and Dedicated To The One I Love and Kate Smith with God Bless America.

Four women make up The Sweethearts. They wear dark pants, white shirts, sequined red vests, cummerbunds and red bow ties. As for Kate Smith, she wears her signature black dress with a sweetheart neck and a long lovely silk handkerchief. She is truly a vision of her early days. Also, a member of the Sons of the American Legion joined the ranks in his army fatigues. He'd join in Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy and Hang On Sloopy.

The birth of the USO show came about in somewhat of a similar manner. Out of somewhere a voice said, "We look like a USO troupe!" and another said, "Let's build that up." We'll take up a collection for the USO. And before you know it, WWII, Korean War and Vietnam-era songs were being practiced and remembered. We gathered information about the USO from the Internet, the library and the encyclopedia, wrote a history of the USO that would serve as the opening to the show.

The night of the Sweetheart Dance arrived, and we had the jitters. So the District Chaplain had us take hands, bow our heads and ask God to help us through this without making fools of ourselves. We walked onto the stage and to our surprise there were

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